

AGENDA

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 8, 2021

7:00pm

In attendance: Kathleen Herbert
Shawn Brissette
Thomas Angelo
Danielle Carlson
Jody Houghton (arrived at 7:24pm)
Valentine Iamartino
Linda Jarmolowicz
William Witkowski

Absent: Donna Godzik

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, William Birch, Heather Burns, Robert Gentes, Shannon Grauer, Christopher Jones, Steve Knowlton, Megan Parrette, Laurence Prentiss, Ian Polun, members of the public, and TPS employees.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kathleen Herbert at 7:11pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Megan Parrette led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Chairman Update

Kathleen Herbert stated that February is Black History Month, but all persons of color should be recognized and we should all be united in this country once again.

IV. Citizens' Comments

V. Student Spotlight/Report

High School BOE Liaison Report

Ongoing Events:

- Junior Class Valentine's Day Fundraiser
- NHS Ear Saver fundraiser
- Yearbook is selling TMHS Lanyards

Upcoming Events:

- February 1st-February 5th: School Counselor Appreciation Week
- February 12th: TSLT In-service
- February 15th-17th: No school for students
- February 22nd: Progress Reports
- March 2nd: Student Council Meeting

Student Voice Forms:

Mental Health has taken a toll for most students, how can we implement better mental health checks into our everyday learning?

- With the pandemic going on, the issue of mental health is something that everyone can feel united on. Some students may find it hard to open up to teachers and explain how they're feeling. Many teachers make it a point to check in with students to see how they are feeling, especially if a student seems to be having an off day. A student leader suggested maybe adding some more fun activities throughout the day to relieve stress on the students. Ms. Parrette is looking into planning activities

to reduce stress for the whole school. Ms. Parrette added, “It has to be about social, emotional wellbeing before it can be about anything else.” Ms. Parrette went on to explain how the challenge is finding out how we can embrace our current circumstances.

A student asserted that under current circumstances, students should not be required to complete their digital portfolio to graduate:

- **UPDATE:** Digital Portfolio is still a vital part of the educational experience of TMHS students. Students demonstrate mastery of the school-wide expectations through a digital portfolio of their work. However, due to the pandemic, student entries in the digital portfolio may be lagging. Students are encouraged to advocate with their teachers for assignments to be added into the portfolio. Administration has encouraged teachers to not only add assignments but also use some instructional time to ensure that students are entering their work.

Cole Coderre recognized Kyle Cournoyer as TMHS Student Spotlight for the month of February.

VI. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting, January 11, 2021

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 11, 2021.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- b. Budget Workshop, January 19, 2021

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop on January 19, 2021.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- c. Budget Workshop, January 25, 2021

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop on January 25, 2021.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Sub-Committee Update

Kathleen Herbert stated that there was a Tourtellotte Trustees meeting on February 1, 2021 to discuss the 65 Main Street House. Discussion was held regarding the project and the rehabilitation costs. Thomas Angelo stated that there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered regarding the project before anything moves forward.

VIII. Superintendent Report

- a. Enrollment Update – The February 1, 2021 enrollment was at 947 students. 199 of those students are currently distance learning.
- b. COVID-19 Update – Melinda Smith stated that after the holidays, there were high numbers of COVID-19 cases that seemed to have lessened. Cases can be day-to-day occurrences. The nurses stay on top of situations and mitigation factors are still being practiced. Discussion was held.
- c. Naming Committee Update – Melinda Smith stated that there have been two requests to name rooms in the schools after prominent members of the Thompson Community. Discussion was held. The current Naming Policy needs to be revised to include naming rooms that are already in existence. The policy sub-committee will meet on February 23, 2021 to review and revise the policy.
- d. Curriculum Council Update – Melinda Smith gave the Board a 5-year Curriculum Revision Cycle for review. The Curriculum Council has met to put the cycle together in order to revise curriculum, look at new resources, develop new assessments, and to evaluate the curriculum.

IX. Administrator Reports

The administrators and directors gave verbal reports on events happening in their schools or departments.

X. Old Business

XI. New Business

Tourtellotte Trust Recommendation:

Motion by William Witkowski, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve the recommendation of the Tourtellotte Trust Board of Trustees to appropriate \$270,000 from the trust proceeds for spending on the 3rd phase of the 1909 building window replacement project.

Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo abstained.

XII. Correspondence

a. Thank You Notes

Thank you notes from the Waldron family and Steve Knowlton were read.

XIII. Citizens' Comments

Ian Polun thanked the cafeteria staff for their hard work this school year, feeding all the children of Thompson.

Melinda Smith stated that she is working with DATTCO and Amy St. Onge to provide transportation for Thompson's elderly citizens to COVID-19 vaccination sites.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes Submitted by: Danielle M. Pederson, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 8, 2021